THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED TRAINING SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

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VOLUME 12   **   NUMBER 11

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NOVEMBE 1994
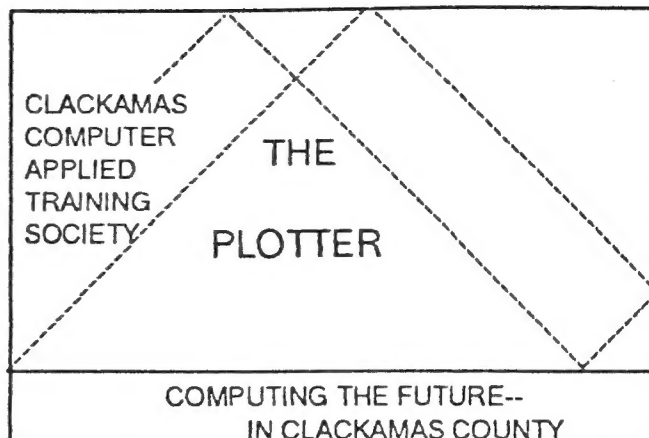
THE PLOTTER

COMPUTING THE FUTURE--
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEETING

The NOVEMBER meeting will be:

on: SUN., NOVEMBER 13, 1994

MEETING   2:00 TO 5:00 P.M.
at: Rod Gowen's home
     14784 S. Quail Circle
   Oregon City

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WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Here it is November, close to the end of the year and the end of Volume #12. I am amazed that we started this 12 years ago with most of the CCAT members (30-40 then) trying to decipher the TS1000 computer and thursting for programs on tape--any program that would load and run. And did we ever have trouble loading those tapes. I even made a tape drive tester for head adjusting to get the peak output. I recall that Rod Gowen habitually adjusted (tweaking) his recorder for maximum volume and best tone "by ear", and he was usually successful.

This issue is kind of a "clean out the files" issue as I have a few articles saved on disk and MSCRIPT I have never used. I'll see how one or more fits in.

My article on using a spread sheet program was an after thought. I spent a lot of time trying different concepts before I finally settled on using AS-EASY-AS V5.5. I had tried V 4.0, shareware which I had never seriously used because the "manual"

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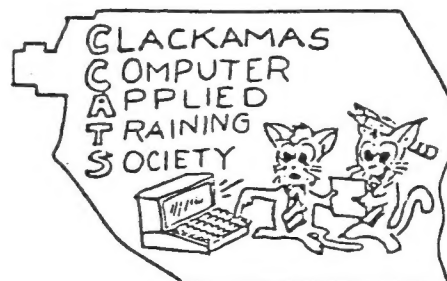
was difficult to get HELP from. V 5.5 has a 119 page manual-yes I printed it- that really is a great help, although I still have difficulty in getting good answers in some cases. If I was conversant with spread sheets I probably would know what the author is describing. I had purchased the share ware version recently hoping it was better than V 4.0. After testing it I decided to really polish up my payroll program with using it (my son was a great help in this). And then I investigated the word processor included with the program (the manual does not help on this feature). It was on a menu so I tried it. I was delightfully surprised to learn that I could send the text to the spread sheet and then input data into the text.

I am vacating my position as THE PLOTTER editor at the end of this year. Caring for my wife at home (she has advanced Alzheimer disease) has stretched my endurance. I have nether the spirit or time to do justice to this editor work. We have been married for 57 years, she has not taken a step since July 27 so she is hospital bed and wheelchair bound. Night time sleep is in spurts as I normally am up at least twice to care for her, several times it was 5 times. Advanced Alzheimer disease is terrible to be around, particularly seeing a loved one waste away, knowing that the end can be soon or some years away. The lack of speach (just sounds) tries my understanding of her wants.

In thinking about being a newsletter editor, I see that it has forced me to do many things with my computers that I probably would not have given thought to. It has been a monthly task that often started before the last issue was mailed, and continued intermittenly untill the next issue. Sometimes I was completing a program or article while assembling an issue, just as I am doing right now with this article. Hardly the way desktop publishing is done. When doing DTP I am sure all material is at hand before it is even started.

The lack of member participation in this writing process has been a disapointment. Well, I soon will not have these problems to think about. I have had some nice contacts from outside readers as well as our own membership. There have been a few programs and articles from our readers far away for which I am thankful. In a few cases I have been able to help fledgling users as well as more seasoned programmers. Mostly my help has been from my library of books, old newsletters, and magazines.

Yes, I will miss much of this, part of my computer world.

AERCO QUITS!
by: Rod Gowen

As of this writing, RMG Enterprises has just received the last stock of TS hardware that AERCO had left. Jerry Chamkis told me that because of the low demand and the fact that he is too busy with his current work to make it cost effective for him to worry about the little that TS business would bring in, he wanted out of it. RMG will make available all existing hardware items that AERCO had left as soon as they have been inventoried and priced out.

Stock will include a few CP-68 Parallel printer interfaces as well as some card edges and FD-68 disk interface PCBs. If you are interested, write or call RMG for prices and availability. Phone 503-655-7484 10AM-7PM Tue-Sat Pacific time. FAX 503-655-4116 24 hours. Address is the same as the return address on this newsletter.

I THINK I'M
HAVING STRESS!

GOOD THINGS
by: Rod Gowen

Remember that old saying, "All good things must come to an end"? Well, it is very true in this case. Our group, CCATS, has been a good thing for quite a few years and now it is coming to an end. After more than 13 years, CCATS will be no more after December, 1994. With flagging interest and low member involvement/attendence, there seems to be little reason to try to continue.

We have done everything we could to generate renewed life and interest over the past couple of years, but to no avail. We opened the group up to ALL computer types and even advertised for members. All with no results. Now it is time to let go and move on with our lives.

I am not going to write another retrospective, as I have already done that a couple of years ago. In this column, I merely want to say that I have really enjoyed my association with CCATS over the years. As one of the first 5 members of the club, we have had over 85 members over the years, I have been here almost since the beginning. I was the first editor of THE PLOTTER and enjoyed that experience as well. I learned a lot and, hopefully, helped other members to learn a lot over the years. I was able to produce the 1988 Mini-Fair in Portland for TS users everywhere, as well as attending several other TS computer shows over the years. I have made many, many long time friends that I intend to keep in the world of TS. I was able to start and keep running a support company, RMG Enterprises, for TS and other computer users. RMG will continue even though CCATS and THE PLOTTER are no longer around.

I just want to say "Thank You" to all of those who have supported CCATS and THE PLOTTER over the years and I am sorry that it could not have continued for a while longer. Again, I have made and enjoyed many friendships that I hope to retain. We, the founders and supporters of CCATS, are not going anywhere, we are just ending the formal club

relationship. If there is someone from our organization that you wish to write to, please feel free to do so. If you watch the December issue (the next and final issue) of THE PLOTTER, you will find a list of all paid local members for 1994 and their addresses. I know that we would all like to know that what we have worked on for so many years did not go unnoticed.

I will try to write an article or two every so often and send it in to Zxir Qlive Alive! for publication, so this is not "Goodbye" just "So long for now".

Take Care---

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PLOTTER:

I was one of the original members of CCATS and as Rod has said I to have been failing to get to meetings. I have no excuse. My 2068 is to the point where I have the programs I use in my daily home upkeep. I have put everything into the computer that I am able to. I have toyed with the idea of up dating to a PC. Well I had the chance to use one while my son had one here at my home until he got his office open in Umatilla. I found out just what a Model "T", the 2068 is compaired to a PC. I was totaly lost on it. I do believe the only way I could get the basics on the PC would be to go to school. I have been content with the 2068 for what my needs are. Yes I would like to have a PC, but I think back to my first days with the 1000, then the 2068 and just dread what I would have to learn to get started on a PC.

I think there are more people like me out there and the 2068 does all that I realy need, sure I want more but, can I handle it, am I willing to put in the time it takes to master the PC.

I don't know about the rest of the readers but I have every issue of the PLOTTER I have received on file. Every so often I need something I remember I have read and go through the back issues and find it. The PLOTTER and the CCATS users group have been of great help to me and I can use all the help I can get.

I have said before that most organizations fall into the category that 90% of the work is done by 10% of the members. I FOR ONE WISH TO THANK THAT 10% FOR KEEPING ME INFORMED. I don't need to tell you who they are we all know them.

THANK YOU AGAIN

Bob Evans
Membership #2
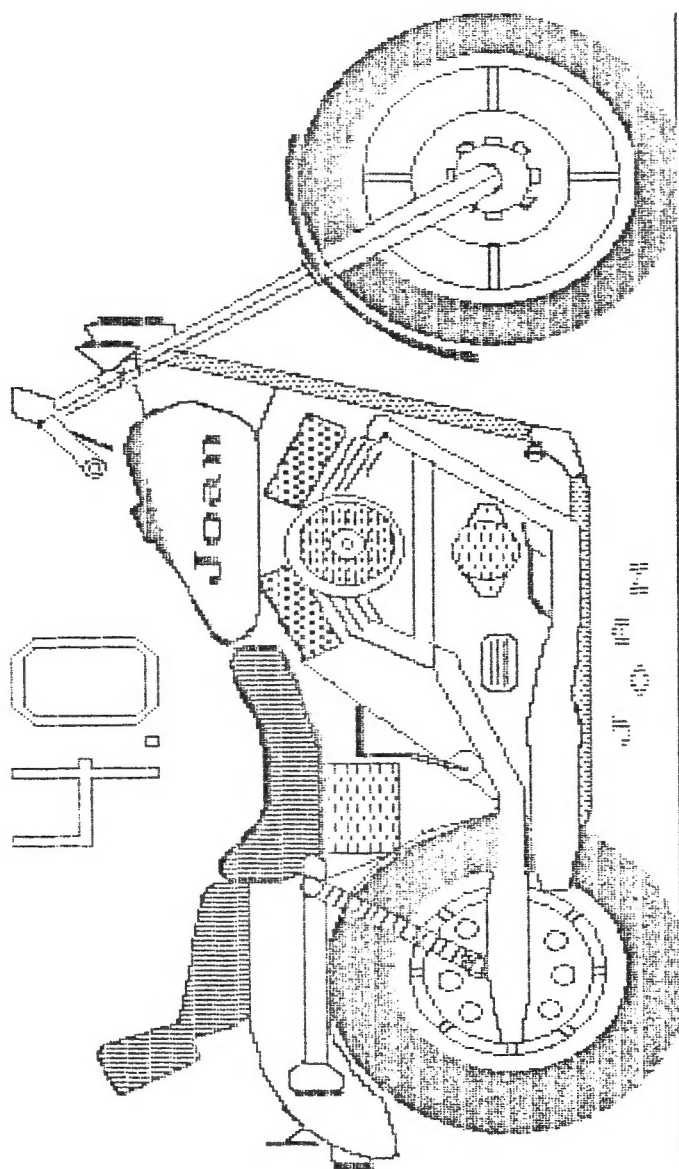
OPEN #,"p"
Dick Wagner

I recently had occasion to make a printer copy of the text of a program that was the result of PRINTs and RUN. Not wishing to change all of the PRINTs to LPRINTs, I found that entering OPEN #2,"p" before pressing RUN, the printer printed out the text as it had appeared on the screen. OPEN #2,"p" is a Sinclair BASIC command.

Using OLIGER SAFE disk drive and printer interface, it is necessary to use LET / P=O, POKE 23324,10 (if line feed is required), POKE 23323,32 to override the 255 line length Oliger uses for default, thus printing 32 character lines. If a left margin is required, say of 15 characters, use OUT 127,27: OUT 127,108: OUT 127,15. This is the code for ESC 1 15.

A simple test program in Oliger format to show the action could be like this:

```
     10 LET /P=O
     20 POKE 23324,10: POKE
23323,32
     30 OUT 127,27: OUT 127, 108:
OUT 127,15
     40 OPEN #2,""p"""
     50 PRINT "This is a test of
OPEN #2, "p"."
     60 CLOSE #2
```

The LARKEN is equally as simple

```
     10 RANDOMIZE USR 100: OPEN #2,
""LP"""
     20 RANDOMIZE USR 100: POKE
16090, 32
     30 REM 32 for line length
     40 RANDOMIZE USR 100: POKE
16092, 10
     50 REM for line feed
     60 RANDOMIZE USR 100: POKE
16094, 15
     70 REM left margin
     80 PRINT "This is a test of
OPEN #2, "LP""
     90 RANDOMIZE USR 100: CLOSE #2
```

A SPREADSHEET APPLICATION

Dick F. Wagner

While my comments pertain to the spreadsheet, AS-EASY-AS V5.5, a MSDOS type shareware program, I am sure there are other spreadsheets in use that are similar.

I had a need for a way to calculate a weekly payroll and withholdings for a caregiver for my invalided wife. I am making appropriate federal and state income tax withholdings as well as medicare and social security. My preference was to have the computer make all calculations from the number of hours worked per week so I would eliminate my error-prone calculations and improper. reading of withholding tables.

Having obtained detailed information on the appropriate formulas, I considered I could use these in the spreadsheet. Both the federal and state have income ranges so the formulas had to have limits as well as less than taxable income situations. Of course, Oregon State is different than the federal method so formulas had to be carefully converted to the spreadsheet format. Also some calculations had to be rounded to the nearest cent and one to the nearest dollar. I found that the results from using the formulas did not always correspond to the tables but were within one dollar. The Internal Revenue manual indicated that the formula results would not necessaruly be identical to the tables.

After a lot of formula testing I was able to arrive at a net weekly pay and the appropriate withholdings. In a year there will be about 40-50 lines of input and calculations. A permanent record is printed each week and the latest printout includes all previous weeks so only one hard copy is necessary for the file.

I provide a suitable pay record for the care giver. At first I developed a QBASIC program that accepted my data. This included date, day hours worked, night hours worked, gross pay, various withholdings and net pay. This requires an explanation as the night hours worked is a special consideration. The desired working hours originally were 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, amd 7:30 to 8:30 PM. As the helper prefers to limit her night hours she actually puts in about a half an hour. So I essentially pay her for her travel time, making a minimum of one hour. I also had to allow for flexible time as sometimes I would be away and could not return by 2:00 PM. Also there were week ends when I would need a few hours of help. These things made a complicated QBASIC program to produce a weekly record for the worker.

AS-EASY-AS includes a simple word processor that seemed useable to generate a report. I found that when the text was completed, ENTER sent it to the spread sheet starting at the top left corner of the text where ever the cursur was located. This made it

possible to format the report so a right hand column would be reserved for my inputs.This column works just like any other column, accepting data either from the spread sheet calculations or from direct input. All of this made it easy and reduced possible errors in transcribing data.

Printing is very easy. I simply set up the range of columns and rows for printing the spread sheet calculations and results. Then I again set up the range for the report and print it on a separate sheet.

All of this really simplifies the records. I have a hand written original daily record of the hours worked each day. At the end of the work week this is used to input the day hours worked and the night hours worked. I have to convert the night hours worked to full hours. The computer calculates all of the results from this raw data.

For this report data, I found I only needed to copy the column/rows of each cell I wanted to input into the report. This is a manual operation. I have a reference column outside of the report that displays the appropriate column for each report feature. Columns are variable while row is constant for each week's calculation. By making text of each row item used in the report, this part remains constant much as a form and the results are changed for each report. One line is used for each report item, such as State Withholding, etc. The following copy of a report shows the results.

DICK F. WAGNER

NAME--
ADDRESS--
SOCIAL SECURITY #--

DATE OF THIS PAY PERIOD	10/10/1994
TOTAL OF DAYTIME HOURS WORKED	24.00
NIGHT HOURS WORKED	2.25
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	28.00
PAY, GROSS	224.00
FEDERAL WITHHOLDING	15.00
SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHOLDING	13.89
MEDICARE WITHHOLDING	3.25
OREGON STATE WITHHOLDING	10.78
TOTAL WITHHOLDING	42.92
NET PAY	181.08

** RMG NEWS **

What a year for changes! RMG is sorry to have to announce that we will no longer be able to accept any credit cards Due to higher bank costs and lower volume in sales by those using bankcards, we can no longer afford to offer the service. All orders will now require either a check of money order as we no longer ship C.O.D. either. We sincerely hope that all of our regular customers will realize that we are desperately trying to stay in business to fill your computer needs.

Again, we wish to apologize for the delay in getting the disks out for THE BEST OF THE PLOTTER. It seems like we are always having to apologize for one delay or another. We can only hope that the wait is worth it for you. We will do our best to fill all orders as soon as possible. If you have a question about an order that you have places with RMG, please do not be afraid to call or write and voice your concern. We realize that doing business by mail is slow in the best of times and we are not out to make it any slower. We just want to remind you that we usually do not forget you, we are usually just waiting for one of the items you have ordered before we ship you order. Please bear with us.

It is beginning to look like THE PLOTTER, the newsletter of our local user group, CCATS, will cease publication with the December, 1994 issue. Dick Wagner, the editor, is unable to keep up the work and no one else seems to want to carry on. I would be glad to do the newsletter myself, but my vision prevents me from doing most of the work involved. If it were just a matter of typing items into a word processor and printing it out, I could do it. But newsletter seem to require a bit of cut and paste and a lot of page alignment (at least ours does) and I am unable to do that sort of work any longer. If THE PLOTTER does cease publication, CCATS will be issuing pro-rated refund checks to those who have paid-up subscriptions not yet filled. If you are a paid subscriber and do not receive a January newsletter, do not worry, we will be doing an audit of the treasury and will then issue refunds at least by March, 1995. Your continued support has been greatly appreciated by all members of CCATS.

Along the lines of the above notice, CCATS may also be disbanding if the members are in agreement to do so. I will be reporting the final outcome on these issues in next month's RMG UPDATES.

As promised last time, we are enclosing pages CNSN-9 through CNSN-12 this month. We are also enclosing a 25% OFF COUPON that can be used on any and all items on our regular price sheets. Sorry, we cannot offer this discount on any item from any CNSN page or from our clearance pages. These coupons will be good until April 30, 1995.

Next month we will be sending out a current 1000 price sheet along with any CNSN page changes. The following month we will send out the currently 2068 price list and other changes as they occur. If you do not want to wait for a complete set of price sheets, you can send us a legal sized S.A.S.E. with 58 cents postage and we will send you all current price sheets along with other information.

KEEP WATCHIN' FOR MORE NEWS! Rod Gowen, Owner, RMG Enterprises

14784 South Quail Grove Circle, Oregon City, OR 97045
503/655-7484 8AM-6PM PT * FAX/VOICEMAIL: 503/655-4116 24 HRS

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